OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OREGON VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Oregon NEWS



HONORING THE PAST WHILE EMBRACING THE FUTURE



VOL-84 NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2026 NUMBER 6

MORE THAN A CLUB: THE HEART OF THE VFW AND AUXILIARY

While standing in line one morning to buy coffee, I overheard two people talking about the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They wondered whether the organization was slowly fading away. Neither seemed to know much about what the VFW actually does, and one thought it was simply a club where veterans could go to get away from people.

That couldn't be further from the truth.

Being part of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary means being part of something much bigger than a club. It means standing alongside those who have served our country, supporting their families, and honoring the sacrifices made to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today.



Post 1324 Commander Bryan Smith and Quartermaster Frank West fold the flag during the Honor Guard ceremony at the dedication of the new Gold Star Memorial at Willamette National Cemetery.

The VFW and Auxiliary are made up of extraordinary people who continue to support veterans, their families, and their communities. They advocate for veterans' benefits through legislative efforts on Capitol Hill, help maintain the final resting places of fallen comrades, and assist veterans as they navigate the often-complicated process of seeking disability benefits. Across Oregon, Posts and Auxiliaries work to strengthen their communities, serving veterans and civilians alike.

Looking back through the years, it is true that some Posts have faced declining membership or reduced activity. But that is not the end of our story. It is an opportunity to look ahead, reconnect with our communities, and remind people why our mission matters.

In today's world, it is more important than ever to carry forward the traditions of camaraderie, patriotism, and service to our fellow Americans. Making a difference does not always require a grand gesture.
Sometimes, it begins with a simple conversation, a helping hand, a visit to someone who could use some company, or an invitation for someone new to get involved.



Post 922 and its Auxiliary welcome the community to their annual Cowboy Breakfast ahead of the Pendleton Round-Up. Pendleton, OR - September 19, 2026

Every act of service matters. Every connection strengthens our communities. And every member who chooses to participate helps carry our mission into the future.

Veterans Day, observed on November 11, reminds us that honoring our veterans means more than pausing to recognize their service. It also means continuing to support them long after the celebrations and ceremonies have ended. The spirit of Veterans Day lives on in the everyday acts of service, compassion, and camaraderie that bring us together throughout the year. The VFW and Auxiliary have an opportunity to put that spirit into action, not just on one day, but every day.

As the holiday season approaches, take a moment to reach out to your community and show what being part of the VFW and Auxiliary is all about. Share your stories, invite others to participate, and look for opportunities to serve those around you.



Dean Howes (center), Senior Vice Commander of VFW Marion Post 661, speaks with a videographer as Matt Decker (foreground), former Junior Vice Commander of Post 661, and Tomas Vanderhoof (left background), museum coordinator, participate in the event.
Keizer, OR - Keizer Gold Star Families Memorial Dedication - February 7, 2026

We are all part of a much larger story, woven together by service, sacrifice, friendship, and a shared commitment to something greater than ourselves. Like the threads of a tapestry, each of us contributes something unique.

Together, we create something far stronger and more beautiful than any one of us could create alone.

The future of the VFW and Auxiliary is not simply something we wait for. It is something we build together.

Photos were shared with permission from the Posts they represent. Some featured activities were discovered through publicly available social media posts. The photos included in this issue are not intended to represent all the wonderful work being done throughout Oregon. If your Post has photos of community events or activities, please submit them for consideration in future newsletter issues. We'd love to showcase more of the great work happening across our state!

DEPARTMENT OF OREGON LEADERSHIP

FROM DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

"Leadership is intangible, and therefore no weapon ever designed can replace it."
General Omar N. Bradley

State Commander's Corner

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



Joe Steller
Dept. Commander
(Joe.steller@gmail.com)

Happy holidays as we move toward the end of the year!

The student submission deadlines for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen have passed, and I want to thank all the Posts, chairpersons, teachers, and volunteers who worked to encourage student participation. It is always heartwarming to hear the essays these students write. Their words remind us why these programs are so important. I look forward to recognizing our winners at Mid-Winter in January.

November 11 is Veterans Day, a time to remember and thank all veterans who have served and those who continue to serve our country. Without their sacrifices, we would not be the country we are today. Thank you all for your service!

Western Conference is just around the corner, November 5–8, in Arizona. This is where the western states come together to discuss concerns they are facing and who they would like to represent them at the national level. If you have never attended, I encourage you to consider going sometime in the future.

A lot of information was shared during our four Officer Training Schools. Comrade Bert Little did a great job organizing training at four locations around the state, giving our members the opportunity to learn about our programs, website, and officers' duties. Thank you, Bert, for making this happen!

To continue your education, we also offer monthly Zoom training on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Our next three sessions are:

- ·**November 3:**
  - Cubbies – Document storage on the website, presented by Theresa Dearman
- ·**December 1**:
  - Community Service Reports (CSR) – How to enter reports, presented by Theresa Dearman
- ·**January 5**:
  - Membership, presented by Michelle Hurley

I hope to see you at one or more of these training sessions!

Mid-Winter is coming up quickly, January 22–24, at the Riverhouse in Bend, Oregon. This is where we come together to recognize and celebrate our Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year winners. Be sure to go online and make your reservations.

The opening meeting and awards banquet will be held on Saturday, January 23. If you arrive early, we are arranging a tour of the Central Oregon Veterans Ranch, the special project of the Department Commander and Auxiliary President. This will give you a firsthand look at the important work they do.

We're also having a little friendly competition to see who can raise the most money for this worthy cause. Whichever side raises the most money, the other side's leader will have to wear a chicken suit at State Convention! Post donations can be made through the VFW state website. So, let's get those donations coming in. I know which side I'm rooting for!

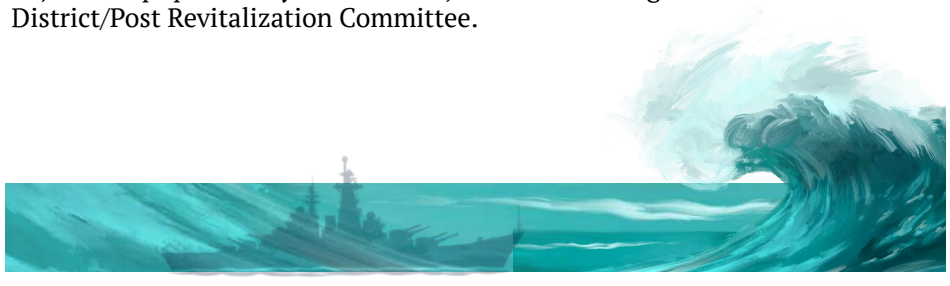
We are also looking forward to a meet-and-greet on Friday, January 22, beginning at 6:00 p.m. More details will follow!

Now for some scary words: **Redistricting.**

I know everyone has heard that word, and everyone is ready for a fight.

No one wants to move or play the district/post shuffle.

So, to help put everyone at ease, I am renaming the committee the District/Post Revitalization Committee.



The committee's job will be to define what makes a healthy district or post and help those that need assistance. The committee will work with Post, District, and Department Commanders to find the best possible solutions to help struggling Posts and Districts become healthier and stronger.
If you would like to serve on this committee, please contact me.

Membership is one of the largest obstacles many of our Posts face in achieving All-American or All-State status. But why is that?
Our membership goal is based on the number of members we had at the end of the previous membership year. If we can get all our annual members to renew, reaching 100% should be achievable. Of course, we also need to recruit new members to replace our fallen comrades and continue growing our organization.

We can recruit new members, but why can't we keep the ones we already have?

I challenge each Post to establish a mentorship program that makes new members feel welcome and part of the VFW family. If you find something that works, share it with others. And remember, if you need help, you can always call the Department. We will do our best to assist you.

The next few months are filled with holidays: Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. Slow down a little and spend time with family and friends. Cherish the time you have together. Then, let's hit the ground running in the new year and work toward achieving our goals.

Honoring the Past While Embracing the Future,
Joseph J. Steller
Department Commander

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

Something's afloat in this issue of Oregon VFW News!

The fleet has arrived, and a few vessels have slipped into the pages of this issue. Keep a sharp lookout as you read!

And as a bonus, keep your eyes open for something a little fishier than usual. Something has escaped the QM's Fishbowl! No need to report this little escapee—just enjoy the catch if you spot it.

How many discoveries can you make? Email Admin@VFWOR.org with the number of battleships, aircraft carriers, sailing ships, and submarines you find, along with the page number where you found each one.

Find them all to be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a 2026–2027 Commander's Cup!

Entries must be received by December 23. The drawing will be held on December 24, and the winner will be announced in the January–February issue. You must be a VFW member to enter.

Happy hunting, Comrades—and fair winds!

KNOW YOUR FLEET



Battleship *Aircraft Carrier* *Sailing Ship* *Submarine*

The silhouettes hidden in the article may not be exactly as previewed, Comrades. Keep an eye out!



DEPARTMENT OF OREGON LEADERSHIP

Senior Vice Commander's Corner

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF MEMBERSHIP



Greg Arnold
State Sr. Vice Commander

For this year's Membership Program (2026-2027) under the Welcome and Philosophy section there are eight Guiding Principles for this Membership year.

(These can be found in the Department of Oregon's Official Roster & Bylaws, under Membership Programs. Which can be accessed on the Departments website.)

1. Upgrading our yearly members into Life Members.

2. Using today's Technology and Community Engagement.

3. Support National and Department Programs.

4. Train and Mentor Future Leaders.

5. Encourage Knowledge Sharing.

6. Communicating at All Levels.

7. Working closely with our Auxiliaries.

8. Conduct Wellness Checks (aka Buddy Checks).

I would like to expand some on item 8 – Buddy Checks.

The VFW is a large family with a large diversification of members. We do not want anyone to fall between the cracks. It is our responsibility to check on our fellow comrades to make sure they are OK and help them if needed. We do this because that is what a family does!

The Vancouver VFW Post 7824 has an excellent guide concerning conducting Buddy Checks on its website, I thought I would share it, unedited. You may be well experienced in contacting our fellow members or this could be all new to you. The below guidelines should be helpful in conducting Buddy Checks.

How to Conduct a VFW Buddy Check

A VFW Buddy Check is a simple, personal outreach to a fellow veteran — by phone, text, email, video, coffee, or in person — to connect, listen, and offer support, with the goal of reducing isolation and encouraging access to resources when needed.

What a Buddy Check Is

In the VFW context, a Buddy Check is peer support, not counseling or an investigation. It's about connecting, listening, and following up to show a veteran they matter . It can be part of national initiatives like Buddy Check Week but should be done year round

Step by Step Process

1. **Prepare**

- Choose someone you've served with or known locally.
- Keep crisis and VA resource numbers handy (e.g., Veterans Crisis Line: 988 then press 1, text 838255, or 202 959 TAPS).
- Decide on your channel (call, text, email, visit).

- **2. Connect**

- Start naturally: "You crossed my mind, and I wanted to see how you're doing."
- A text or voicemail still counts — it's about showing care, not demanding a reply.

- **3. Listen**

- Use open questions ("How have things been lately?").
-
- Allow silence, avoid rushing to solve, and respect their pace and privacy.
- Ask if they'd like to explore resources together.

4. Follow Up

Agree on a specific next contact (e.g., "I'll check in on Friday").
If you promise to call, visit, or send info, do it.

- Best Practices
  - Be intentional: Set a goal (e.g., one check in per quarter per member).
  - Use multiple channels: Not all veterans answer calls; try text, email, or social media.
  - Avoid transactional contact: Don't reach out only for dues or events — make it about well being.
  - Recognize signs of distress: If you suspect immediate danger, call 911; otherwise, offer to connect them to professional help
  - Keep it personal: Focus on the veteran, not a checklist.

- Sample Opening & Follow Up Messages
  - Opening: "Hey [Name], it's [Your Name]. You crossed my mind, and I wanted to check in. How have you been doing?"



- Offering support: "No pressure to explain anything you don't want to share. I'm here to listen. Would it help if we looked at some resources together?"
- Follow up: "I'm glad we connected. I'll check back on [day]. If you want to talk before then, please reach out."

Why It Matters

- Buddy Checks interrupt isolation, reinforce camaraderie, and can be life saving .

Even one sincere contact is valuable — you don't need to reach ten people to make a difference

Tip: VFW posts can coordinate Buddy Check Week (Sept. 21–25, 2026) but should maintain ongoing outreach.

As you gain experience in performing Buddy Checks you will develop your own style, the above guidelines are just that: recommended guidelines. The important thing is getting in touch with our members, letting them know that the VFW Department of Oregon, Districts, and Post care about them.

QM/ADJ's Corner

FROM THE DESK OF THE ADJUTANT



Brandy Olmstead
Dept. Adj/Quartermaster

As we move into the final months of 2026, I would like to share a few important administrative reminders to help our Posts stay current with Department and National requirements.

Post Liability Insurance
Under Section 709 of the National Bylaws, Posts that operate a canteen, clubroom, or other facility must maintain appropriate liability insurance. This requirement applies whether the Post owns or rents the facility.
Both the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the VFW Department of Oregon must be listed as additional insureds on the policy.

Please ensure that a current Certificate of Insurance is uploaded to your Post's Cubby. When your policy renews or changes, remember to upload the updated certificate.
Even if your Post does not operate a facility, I encourage you to review your insurance needs and consider liability coverage appropriate to your Post's activities.

Department Headquarters Address Update
As a reminder, Department Headquarters relocated from Portland to Salem in March 2025.

If your Post maintains insurance policies or other accounts that still list the former Portland headquarters address, please contact your provider to have the information updated to the current Salem address.

This is especially important for insurance policies naming the Department as an additional insured, as notices and policy correspondence need to reach the correct location.

Officer Eligibility Documentation

Under Section 216 of the National Bylaws, Post Adjutants are responsible for maintaining documentation establishing the eligibility of elected and appointed Post officers.

Please ensure that your Post's officer eligibility records are complete, current, and available for review during inspections. Maintaining these records is an important part of your Post's permanent administrative files.

Annual Post Inspections
All Posts should have completed their annual Post inspection by now. If your Post has not yet been inspected, please contact your District Commander as soon as possible to schedule your inspection.

These inspections help ensure that our Posts are meeting their administrative and organizational responsibilities.

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Reporting Deadline
November 15, 2026, is the deadline for Posts that did not use ScholarsApp to enter their Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen participation information into the VFW National Dashboard. If your Post conducted either program outside of ScholarsApp, please ensure your information is entered into the National Dashboard by November 15 so your Post receives proper credit for its participation.

Thank you to all of our Post and District officers for the time and effort you dedicate to keeping our organizations running smoothly. Your attention to these administrative responsibilities helps strengthen the Department of Oregon and allows us to better serve our veterans, their families, and our communities.

And together, we can do great things!

Brandy T Olmstead
Department Adjutant

-continued pg. 4

DEPARTMENT OF OREGON LEADERSHIP

-continued from pg. 3

QUARTERMASTER'S CORNER

IRS Form 990 Filing Reminder
It's time to make sure your Post's annual IRS Form 990 has been filed!

If your Post operates on a fiscal year of July 1 through June 30, your Form 990 is due November 15, 2026. Posts operating on a different fiscal year should verify their applicable filing deadline and ensure they are current.

Not sure what your Post's fiscal year is? Open your Oregon Spiral Roster and locate your Post's information. Find your Post's EIN and note the color used to highlight it. Then turn to the last page of the Post Information section and match your EIN's color to the filing schedule.

Once you've filed, remember to upload a copy of your Form 990 filing confirmation or applicable return to your Post's Cubby.

Special Quartermaster Training – Form 990-N
Not sure how to file your Post's Form 990-N (e-Postcard)?

Join us for a special Quartermaster Zoom training on Thursday, November 12, 2026, at 7:00 PM Pacific. We'll walk through the filing process step by step, including what information you'll need.

To join, visit the Department of Oregon website and navigate to Members Only → Enter Member Web Now → Training to access the Zoom link.

Quarterly Audit Reminders
Quartermasters, please work with your Post Trustees to ensure they have the financial records, bank statements, and supporting documentation needed to complete their quarterly audits.

Under Section 218 of the VFW Manual of Procedure, the Trustees are responsible for conducting the audit and preparing the Trustees' Report of Audit. The completed report must be signed by the Trustees and Post Commander.

If your Post's July–September 2026 quarterly audit has not yet been submitted, please ensure it is completed and uploaded to your Post's Cubby as soon as possible.

The October–December 2026 quarterly audit is due no later than January 30, 2027.

Bonding Reminder
The August 31 deadline for Quartermaster bonding has passed. If your Post or District has not yet completed its bonding requirements, please take care of this immediately.

All bonding applications received by Department Headquarters have been processed. If you submitted an application but have not received your bonding certificate, please email me with information about how you submitted the application and how payment was made so we can investigate.

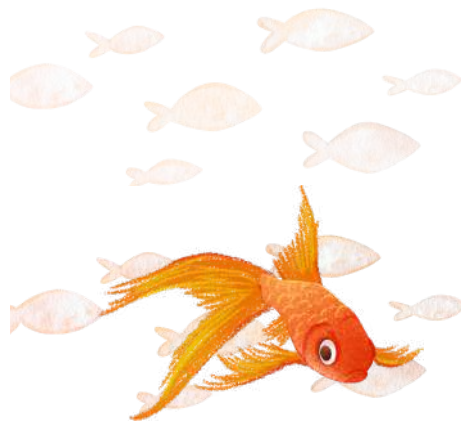
If your Post or District obtains bonding through a company other than the one used by Department Headquarters, proof of bonding must still be submitted.

Posts should upload their proof of bonding to their Post Cubby. Districts should email their documentation to ADJ@VFWOR.org.

Bonding forms are available in the Members Only section under Quartermaster Forms.

All-State Program Donation Reminder
Posts working toward All-State recognition are reminded that contributions to Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year must be received by Department Headquarters no later than November 15, 2026, to qualify for All-State.

Please review your Post's contributions and submit any outstanding donations before the deadline to ensure they are credited toward your All-State qualification.



Past Department Commander's Corner

HOW TO BE A VFW MENTOR



Bert Little
Past Department Commander

Mentorship: Should be used all year round from Post, District, and Department levels. A mentor should guide and advise rather than dictate, micromanage, or solve every problem for the mentee.

What is mentoring? Mentorship is a trusted, voluntary partnership where an experienced individual guides a less experienced person's long-term personal and professional growth.

Just because you are no longer holding a position you should still be mentoring your predecessor in the correct operation of that position.

Why should the VFW use mentors? The VFW is a fraternity brought together by a common experience. We are committed to certain values, including concern for fellow veterans. We must do all we can to train those individuals who will lead this organization in the future.

What does being a VFW Mentor entail?

- They should understand VFW values, have an interest in VFW culture and be willing to serve as a leader.
- It is important to the success of the effort to identify a regular time and place and stick to it. True leadership involves commitment and discipline.
- You need not be a great expert on VFW history or policies. Just discuss each element from your own perspective, using your own experiences.
- Encourage your mentee by introducing him or her to other leaders and active members. Encourage these other members to share their VFW experience.
- Encourage them to consider accepting an assistant chairmanship and recruiting their fellow veterans.
- Encourage and support your mentee as a candidate for the position they are running for at post, district, or department levels.
- What are the goals of mentoring? A successful mentor will encourage other veterans to become a committed, active VFW member.

MENTORING CURRICULUM

The curriculum is a suggestion of elements that should be covering the job position and duties the mentee is learning to take over. Have guidelines, forms, references and a POC if any questions are needed by the mentee. Set them up for success and give them the necessary information for doing their job that is required by the National Bylaws and Department Programs.

Start now sharing your position duties with the next person interested in moving up in leadership at the Post, District or Department levels.

Judge Advocate's Corner

KNOW THE RULES. KEEP YOUR COMRADES WELL.



Andrea D. Summerlin
Department Judge Advocate

Greetings Comrades,

I started writing this newsletter article as the Department Surgeon, but then midway through, I was elected as your Judge Advocate. Thank you for your vote of confidence, and I look forward to serving you for the rest of the 2026-27 year.

I recommend that officers at all levels obtain a copy of the current podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, and Ritual, available through the VFW Store at National Headquarters. You can also download the digital version for free from the National webpage.

The Commander is responsible for enforcing strict observance of the laws and usage of this organization, including Post, District, and Department Bylaws; the Congressional Charter; the National Bylaws; the Manual of Procedure and Ritual; and all lawful orders from proper authorities.

As the Department Judge Advocate, I advise the Department Commander and the Department Council of Administration based on the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. I am also available to advise any Post, District, or Comrade. I am no more than an email or phone call away.

As Surgeons, we must prioritize our health, check on our comrades, and help Veterans and their families stay connected to care and support as we close out 2026.

Here are some monthly Comrade Wellness Challenges:

- **October | Prevention Starts With You**: Schedule an overdue appointment or preventive screening and encourage a fellow Veteran to prioritize their health.
- **November | Honoring Veterans Through Action**: Make a healthier choice, reconnect with a comrade, and include a Veteran or surviving spouse in your Thanksgiving plans.
- **December | No Comrade Left Behind:** Care for your emotional wellness, check on someone experiencing grief or isolation, and extend kindness to a Veteran or military family.



DEPARTMENT OF OREGON LEADERSHIP

From the Membership Committee

Department Membership Events: Year in Review

We have had a great year so far of camaraderie, service, and advocacy across the Beaver State. The Department Membership Committee has led five recruiting events since July (State Fair, Airshows, Pendleton Roundup, and Rose City Comicon), drawing in over 35 new membership applications, donations for the relief fund, as well as over $2,000 earned in hat sales.

For the first time in many years, we have a real operating budget, which goes towards maintaining the booth supplies, as well as purchasing VFW-logo swag, hats, and other items for the Department-sponsored booths.



Thank you to ALL of the volunteers that helped make these events a success! Without you we would not have been able to make an impact in our communities. We challenge everyone to consider volunteering or even setting up their own recruiting events within their Districts. And remember, every day presents recruiting opportunities.

LOOKING AHEAD: 2027 DISTRICT RECRUITING BOOTHS
We had a heavy lift this year conducting Department recruiting events (eight total since March). The Department Membership Committee is currently three members strong, so the focus coming into the new year will shift more towards leading a few key Department-hosted events and then assisting the Districts in hosting recruiting events in their regions.

- The Strategy: Every District is encouraged to identify at least two high-traffic community events for the 2027 calendar year and sign up to host a booth at those events. The Membership Committee will be reaching out to the District leadership by mid-December to assist in getting your events for 2027 scheduled. If you need assistance, please reach out to the Membership Committee (we have a list of potential events across the state and some that may be free or very low cost due to connections we have made).

- Supplies & Assets: The Department has updated booth materials, including the new VFW-logo canopy, banners, tablecloths, square machine, brochures, as well as signup and money tracker templates to help make your event successful. Please coordinate with the Membership Committee for assistance with these items.

- Volunteers Needed: A recruiting booth is only as good as the Veterans and Auxiliary members staffing it. Start building your outreach schedules now so no single member gets burned out.

MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITING: KEEPING OUR RANKS STRONG
Our strength lies in our numbers. To advocate effectively in Salem and D.C., we must maintain and grow our active roster.

- Current Standings: Department is currently at 87.82% (as of 24 October) of our annual membership goal of 101%. Oregon currently needs ~1,350 members to reach that goal. We also have several Posts that are on the verge of closing due to low membership rolls. We have a long way to go so we need your help! Please ensure you are reaching out to at-large and expired/expiring members. You should also be using your Buddy Poppy and every event in your community to recruit members. If you need assistance, we are more than willing to visit your District and discuss recruiting strategies with your members.

- Retention Challenges: We are seeing a trend in lower membership numbers, expiring members, and a lack of recruiting younger and female Veterans onto our rolls. Please check in on your post rosters (your QM has access) and make those phone calls.

- Updates to Policies: National recently put out new guidance regarding changes to membership terminology and accounting as it relates to reinstate and retention numbers. Please review the new rules here: National Reinstate and Retention Update

- The Pitch: When talking to prospective members, remind them that the VFW offers a variety of services and support to Veterans and their families, which include VA claim assistance, local community impact with relief funds and volunteerism, camaraderie, and legislative advocacy.

CONTACTING US: WE ARE HERE TO HELP!
To contact the Department Membership Committee please utilize this email: membership@vfwor.org or if urgent, please contact Michelle Hurley at 813-777-9455.

Michelle Hurley
VFWOR Membership Chair

DEPARTMENT OF OREGON AUXILIARY

Department of Oregon Auxiliary President

HELLO BROTHERS, SISTERS AND COMRADES

November is upon us and thus, the chaos of the holidays is right around the corner. As we enter this festive and often stressful season, I have a few reminders to share.

Please take a moment on November 11th to honor our veterans. I know that many Posts and their Auxiliaries are hosting special events for Veterans Day. Please don't forget to report your events and send us pictures. We love to see what you all are doing, and we would love to post your pictures on our website.

As long as the winter weather holds off, I will be surprising more of our Auxiliaries with a visit. I had so much fun visiting Molalla, Sandy, Sellwood-Breakthrough, Lake Oswego and Pendleton a couple of weeks ago in a whirlwind, epic adventure. Thanks to you all. I had a great time with you. I wasn't quite done yet. The next week I surprised Siletz Auxiliary as well. I had a wonderful time meeting all the lovely ladies that work so hard there.

VERY STRONG REMINDER

Please get your annual dues paid NOW. If we want to earn an extra $400 from National, we need to be at least 95% on December 31st. Let's get this done. I know that we can do it. President's, please call your annual members and ask them to please remit their dues. If they don't want to renew, please ask why. The why matters. It is up to us to know what we can improve to keep our members. You won't know if you don't ask. Don't forget we have a friendly competition with the Post side. My husband, the Department Commander, is going to look so adorable in that replica child's sailor suit.

If you are an Auxiliary officer and an annual member, please pay your dues NOW, if you haven't already done so. If they are not paid by December 31st, you are no longer a member in good standing and will be removed from your officer position. Please don't let this happen, pay your dues immediately.

We keep updating and improving our Department website. We have the members only section up and running now. If you want information on your user name and password, please email me and I will be happy to provide you with that. (The web address for the website is, www.vfwauxor.org) If you have any suggestions on what you would like to see or what you need on our website, let me know. We can make it happen.

Don't forget, our National President, Donna Mills, will be here visiting us in Redmond, January 11th-13th. Details and tickets for the dinner Tuesday night will be on the website soon.

Our Mid-Winter Conference is coming up on January 22nd-24th in Bend at the River House Convention Center. I know I have said this before, but details are coming to the website ASAP. Hang in there and keep checking back.

I am wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving, full of gratitude and great food. Happy Holidays, whichever ones that you and your families observe. I hope that they are filled with love and lots of joy. Stay warm and healthy until next time.

Loyally,
Terri Steller
Department of Oregon Auxiliary President

tlsteller@gmail.com



UPDATES

HOLIDAY HEART



Theresa Dearman
VFWOR Webmaster & Communications Chair

As we close out 2026, I want to recognize the incredible work Oregon Posts have done this year. Even though many reports are being returned as we all learn the new requirements, remember this: not every good deed is reportable, but every good deed still matters. The heart of our mission has always been service, and that doesn't depend on whether an activity fits a category or earns an approval number. As our report writing skills grow, so does our ability to show the full impact we're already making.

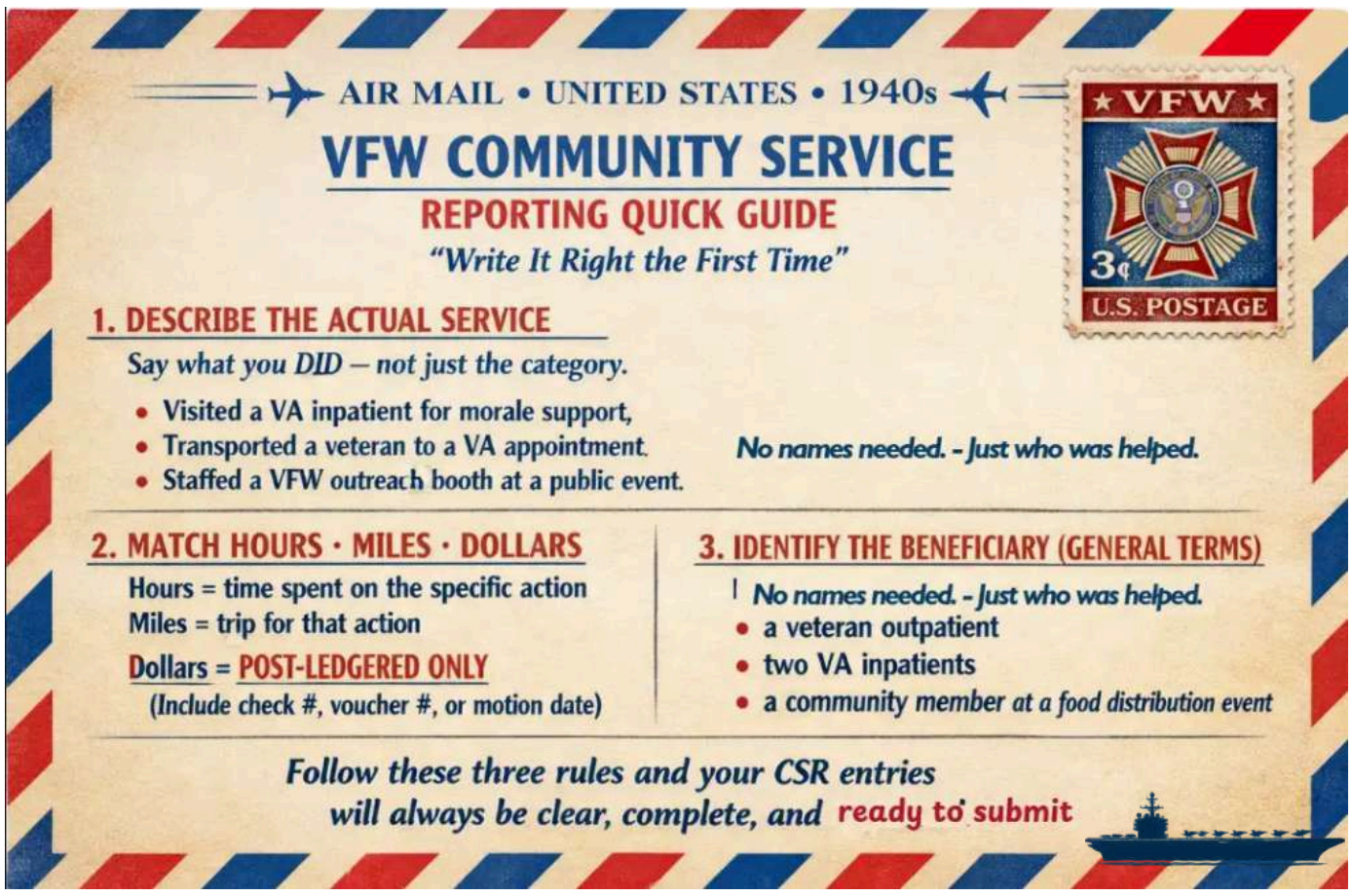
From community outreach to youth programs to supporting veterans facing hardship, our members continue to show what dedication looks like. Every Post — large or small, rural or urban — contributed something meaningful to the fabric of our organization.

This year also asked us to take some risks. We introduced new tools, new communication methods, and new ways of staying connected. Change is never easy, especially in an organization built on tradition, but you showed up. You tried new systems, adapted to new workflows, and helped us move forward together. Thank you for your patience, your willingness, and your trust as we navigated these transitions. It was great getting to see and meet members at OTS this year — I hope that you not only learned something helpful, but also networked and found new buddies to work with for future challenges. For anyone still getting comfortable with the new reporting process, there are helpful hints below — and additional guidance on our Members Only website — to make service reporting easier and clearer.

As we enter the holiday season, let's remember our service members serving downrange and those who cannot be home with their families (and if your Post hosted card-making stations this fall, those Appreciation Cards make perfect toppers for care boxes). The absence of these service members is felt most deeply during this time of year, and our support for them — and for their families — matters.

I also want to look beyond the holidays. January and February can be quiet, cold, and isolating months for many veterans. After focus on parades, family, and holiday meals are over, and the routine returns, some of us feel that drop in energy. This winter, let's lift spirits in one simple human way.

That's why I'm encouraging Posts to join in a January Jubilee tradition— a statewide push to bring a little brightness into our winter months. Your Post's Jubilee can be anything that fits your Post: a chili cook-off, a puzzle night, a "bring a buddy" social, a movie afternoon, Lego build night, or even a casual open house with coffee and conversation. Just try something new with the simple goal: create a warm place for veterans to reconnect after the holiday rush.



Small events can make a big difference. A friendly invitation, a warm room, and a familiar face can turn a quiet winter day into something meaningful.

Thank you for everything you've done this year. Thank you for embracing change. And thank you for continuing to serve with heart. One last reminder — if your Post hosts a January Jubilee, please share your photos and success stories for the next newsletter.

Submissions are due February 24th at:

https://vfwor.org/news/newsletter

I cant wait to see your Jubilee!

Warm Wishes,

Theresa Dearman



UPDATES



Lift a Hero's Spirits

ONE HEARTFELT MESSAGE CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

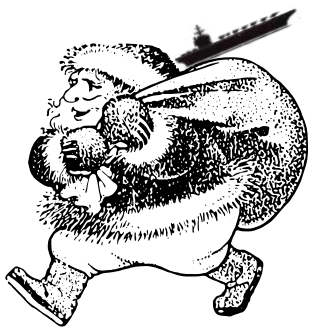
Sign a personalized card for the VFW to deliver to a hospitalized veteran or service member this Veterans Day. It will take just a moment of your time, but your words of gratitude will have a lasting impact on the hero who reads them.

Sign your card today!

SHARE A LITTLE HOLIDAY CHEER WITH CARDS!

For Oregon's VFW and Auxiliary

BRINGING OREGON TOGETHER



Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner!

Spread holiday cheer to a fellow VFW Post or Auxiliary!

Consider sending a Thanksgiving or Christmas card from your Post or Auxiliary to another in Oregon. You may even make a connection with a group you haven't had the chance to meet!

Let's bring Oregon's VFW and Auxiliary communities together this holiday season, one card at a time.

A few friendly suggestions:

- Send a Thanksgiving or Christmas card to another VFW Post or Auxiliary in Oregon.
- Share a friendly greeting and a little holiday cheer.
- Consider reaching out to a Post or Auxiliary you don't know well!

Participation is entirely voluntary. This is simply a fun way to bring Oregon's VFW and Auxiliary communities together for the holidays.

Holiday Cards for our Veterans

A SMALL CARD CAN MAKE A BIG IMPRESSION.

HELP US REACH 250 CARDS!

While the holiday season brings plenty of reasons to celebrate, it can also be a difficult time for some.

Send a holiday card to a veteran at a VA hospital to remind them that they are remembered and appreciated.

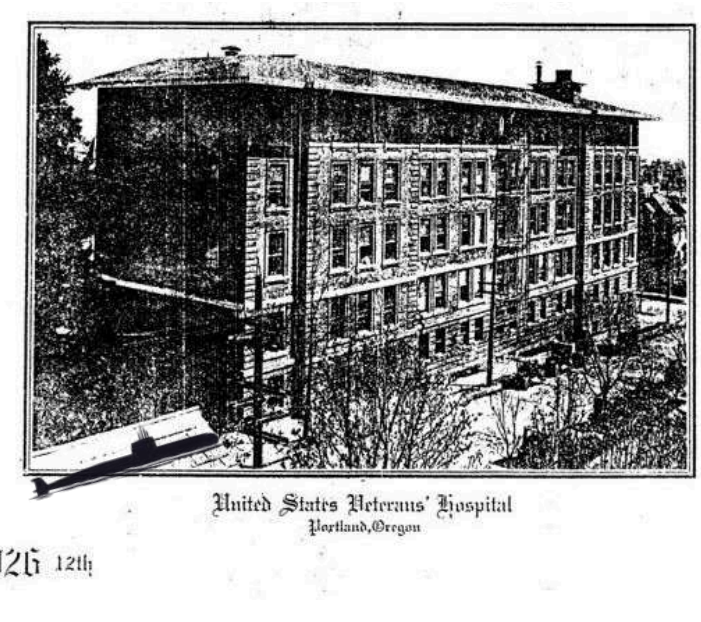
The Portland VA Health Care System is seeking at least 250 Thanksgiving and/or Christmas cards for hospitalized Veterans. VFW Posts, Auxiliaries, and individual members are invited to participate by sending holiday greetings.

Please mail your cards to:

VA Portland Health Care System
Attn: Center for Development & Civic Engagement (P4VOL)
3710 SW US Veterans Hospital Road
Portland, OR 97239

Let's fill the holidays with gratitude, encouragement, and cheer!

Orville Alleman
VAVS Representative -
Portland Oregon


United States Veterans' Hospital
Portland, Oregon
May 1926 12th

"YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN"

POW/MIA Remembrance Day was 18 September 2026, the third Friday each September.

For members of the VFW, remembering our POWs and MIAs is more than an annual observance.

The familiar phrase "You Are Not Forgotten" represents a promise! We each should pray, daily, for the families who have veterans missing from their table. Many families mourn for loved ones and wonder what has become of them.

Remember to have your Fallen Comrade Table (Missing Man Table) or chair present at each meeting. Please fly the POW/MIA flag below the US Flag on your flagpole.



Bob Beck (3049)
Dept of Oregon POW/MIA Chair

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Post 81 Scholarship

February 15th ~ High School Senior ~ 300 words

Did you know that the Department of Oregon has a statewide scholarship program with up to five winners each year for high school seniors? Each student selected will be awarded one thousand dollars [$1,000.00] paid directly to their college, university, or vocational school for their freshman year. The scholarship is open to any child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a Department of Oregon VFW member who is presently in good standing or that was a member in good standing upon their passing.

The student must be attending high school, public or private, or be homeschooled and be graduating the year they apply for the scholarship. In addition, the student must plan to attend a community college, vocational school, college, or university in the U.S.

The scholarship must be used within one [1] year of graduation from high school as a full-time student.

The scholarship is known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 81 Scholarship.

The selection criteria are based on student curriculum, involvement in school activities and/or community service, a minimum 2.5 GPA, and a 300-word essay using the Voice of Democracy theme for this year.

The deadline is February 15 of each year. Mailed applications must be postmarked no later than the deadline date. Emailed or hand-delivered applications must be received by 3:00 pm on the due date. The winner(s) will be announced at the VFW Department of Oregon Convention in June.



1. This Scholarship is known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 81 Scholarship.

2. The Scholarships awarded will be up to five one-thousand-dollar [$1,000.00] individual Scholarships,

3. This is a Department-wide Scholarship Program with up to five [5] Department winners eachyear, as long as funds allow.

4. The Scholarship will be for any Child, Grandchild, or Great-Grandchild of a Department of Oregon VFW member, who is presently, or was a member in good standing upon their death, who is attending any high school, public or private, or home-school. They must be graduating from High School the year of application. The applicant must plan to attend a Community College or Vocational School, or a College or University in the U.S. The Scholarship must be used within one [1] year of graduation from high school as a full-time student.

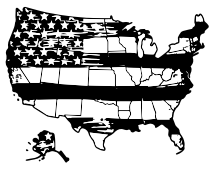
5. Selection Criteria will be based on Student Curriculum, involvement in School Activities and/or Community Service, and a minimum 2.5 GPA.

6. The Department Scholarship Committee will judge and select the winners.

7. Applications will be mailed to Department Headquarters and postmarked no later than February 15, 2027. Emailed or hand-delivered application are due NLT 3:00 pm February 15, 2027.

8. The time and place for the presentation of the Scholarships to the winners shall be determined by the Department Scholarship Committee, and the winners will be announced at the Department Convention.

9. This year's, 2026-2027, theme is "What a Veteran Taught Me About America?"



VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

I have been following The Scholars App and can see that several Posts have VOD candidates entered or in progress. I trust that you each have your Judges assigned and set for judging. Post judging must be completed and winner advanced on the Scholars App no later than 15 November. District judging must be completed and advanced by 5 December for Department judging. Please make the attached rubric available for your judges.

Ensure that you include all award money and expenses when assigning your winners.
When your winners have been determined and awarded, please have local publicity through newspaper and radio stories, including school publications.

The VOD awards banquet will be held during the Mid-winter Conference on 23 January in Bend. District winners will be escorted by District Commander and Aux Presidents. Please work with your community to raise funds for this worthy scholarship program. Also send in your Post and District Donations for the VOD, PP and TOY programs as soon as possible.

Please contact me if you need assistance with the App.

VOD Judges Rubric

Category	0 pts	1-10 pts	11-20 pts	21-25 pts	26-30 pts	30-35 pts
Originality (35 pts possible)	Parts or the whole have been AI-generated or plagiarized.	Unoriginal. Re-phrases others' ideas or uses cliches without any creative applications.	A few original, creative thoughts but on the whole fails to be engaging.	Mostly original, creative thoughts that are generally engaging.	Content is original and creative that engage the reader throughout the essay.	Excellent development. Many aspects and ideas of the theme being addressed. Original content, original examples that are memorable and impactful. captivates the audience and leaves a lasting, profound impression.
Content (30 pts possible)	Parts or the whole have been AI-generated or plagiarized.	Content is unrelated to the theme of the contest. Structure is disorganized and hard to follow.	Partially related to the theme of the contest. Structure lacks organization, focus, and clear argumentation.	Mostly related to the theme of the contest. There is some structure, but there are gaps in organization, focus, and argumentation.	The content is clearly in line with the contest theme. Good structure and organization is evident. The paper is mostly focused and most arguments are well-supported.	The content is clearly in line with the contest theme. Excellent structure and organization is evident, and all arguments are well-supported.
Delivery (35 pts possible)	Parts or the whole have been AI-generated or plagiarized.	The speaker cannot be understood. Articulation is poor with poor pronunciation.	The speaker is difficult to understand. The speaker is monotone through much of the speech. The speaker is unengaging and pacing is poor.	The speaker can be understood most of the time, but vocal tone and pacing are inconsistent, and speaker's ability to engage the listener is uneven.	Clear speaking voice with generally good tone and pacing that complements the content of the speech and generally engage the listener.	Superior speaking voice with excellent tone and well-paced delivery that enlivens the content of the speech and consistently engages the listener.

- **31 OCT** - Midnight Deadline for student entries into VOD, PP Essay Contests
- **1 Nov -** Post VOD, PP, TOY results due in Scholar's App and to District Chairman – Bruce Andrade
- **15 Nov** -
  - VOD, PP, Post Entries Promoted in Scholars App.
  - VOD, PP, TOY – Enter information on National Dashboard – ALL POSTS
  - TOY – Post Entries due to District Chairman - Dist. Judging Begins
- **5 Dec -** VOD, PP, TOY – District Winners due at Department/Promoted in Scholar's App.

Bob Beck (3049)
Dept of Oregon VOD Chair

NEWS FROM AROUND OREGON

GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN



ONE HEARTFELT MESSAGE CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Andrea D. Summerlin

Comrades, let me ask you a serious question. How long would you wait for someone to return home? Perhaps it is a prodigal child who wandered far from the family. Maybe it is a parent who left for work in another city? Or a family member who is serving overseas. How long would you wait? A year? Five Years? Ten Years?

Our family waited over seventy-five years. In June, I was notified by my cousin that a family member, George T. Hill was positively identified by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, better known as DPAA. In this article, I want to share his story: Who he was, where he served, how he was identified, and the way that he was honored during his burial service.

Who was George?

He was my Aunt Florence's younger brother, born on July 15, 1932, in Los Angeles, CA. George had enlisted in the Army at age 17, against his mother's wishes. He was stationed in Japan before being sent to the Republic of Korea when the war began. In the summer of 1950, Hill served in Company B, 3rd Engineer Battalion, 24th Infantry Division.

On August 11, 1950, one and a half months after the war started, George was killed. It was only three weeks after he had turned 18 that he died.

From the battle report and firsthand accounts, we learned that George was one of the few chosen for the patrol mission into enemy territory. Once they came under enemy fire, George was one of the handful who volunteered to stay behind and provide cover so the others could get to safety. In the end, out of the 20 men on the patrol, only five returned alive.

He was reported missing in action on Aug. 11 in the vicinity of Chang-dong, South Korea, near the Naktong River.

With no evidence of his continued survival, the Army issued a presumptive finding of death as of Dec. 31, 1953. The Army declared him non-recoverable on Jan. 16, 1956.

The family didn't have any of this information for many years. In the early 1990's his mother received an unopened box of personal effects the Army had returned. His parents could never face opening that box and admitting that George was finally gone.

His mother always felt he was still Missing In Action and was never able to grieve for him or put him to rest. I have faith that they are together in heaven now, but his service brought closure to the remaining family members and offered hope for families who are still waiting for their loved ones to come home.

Hill's name is recorded on the American Battle Monuments Commission's Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, along with the others who are still missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

How was George finally identified?

On Dec. 18, 1951, two sets of remains were recovered from the Naktong Bulge area of the Pusan Perimeter. At the time, officials could not associate the remains with Hill, so they were interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu.

In July 2018, the DPAA proposed a plan to disinter 652 Korean War Unknowns from the Punchbowl. In July 2021, DPAA personnel disinterred the two sets of remains as part of Phase Three of the Korean War Disinterment Plan and sent the remains to the DPAA laboratory for analysis.

To identify Hill's remains, DPAA scientists used dental, anthropological, and radiocarbon isotope analysis, as well as chest radiograph comparison. I am fascinated by how far our identificati on techniques have come in years.

Divine Intervention

A few things made me understand that God had his capable hand in the situation, especially in bringing George home.

When I was stationed in the Republic of Korea in 2003, my mother visited. We attempted to locate the battle area where George was killed but were unsuccessful. The landscape had changed so much since the Korean War. We never gave up hope and kept searching for information.

When I was in Hawaii for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Western Conference in 2024, I had the opportunity to tour the DPAA laboratory. I now know that George was there at the same time I was, waiting to be identified.

Another thing that could only be called "A God Thing" is that the Golden Gate Cemetery in San Bruno is currently full and no longer allows burials. However, the Army found a spot for George. The best part is that he is only three rows over from his parents.

His father was a World War I veteran, and both are Purple Heart recipients. We buried him on July 15th, which would have been his 94th birthday.

Welcome Home

The number of veteran organizations that showed up to honor George was astounding! From the Patriot Guard Riders and the American Legion Riders (Chapter 105 in Redwood City) to U.S. Volunteers of America, Sons of the American Legion (Squadron 105, Redwood City), Honoring our Fallen, Marine Corps League, Bay Area Honor Flight, USO, Army Reserve National Honor Guard, Daughters of the American Revolution, and so many others… they all came to honor a man they didn't know. It was truly overwhelming and brought genuine tears to my eyes!

Do you realize that nearly 81,000 service members are still unaccounted for? There are 7,359 members just from the Korean War, with over five thousand in North Korea. Our country is one of the few in the world that continues to search for the fallen and assist their families actively. Because of this experience, I volunteered as a Project Recover Ambassador to raise awareness of those still missing.

Let me ask the question again. How long would you wait for someone to return home? Our family waited over 75 years, and other families have waited even longer. My call to action for you is to learn more about these POW/MIA service members. Support the families of those still waiting to bring their service members home. Fly the POW/MIA flag on National POW/MIA Recognition Day, which is observed on the third Friday in September.

Lastly, never give up hope of finding those who were Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action. Keep saying their names and sharing their stories.

Our story proves that even after many years, a service member can be identified and return home to their family. They are gone but not forgotten.

General John J. Pershing, the first Chairman of the American Battle Monuments Commission, famously said, "Time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

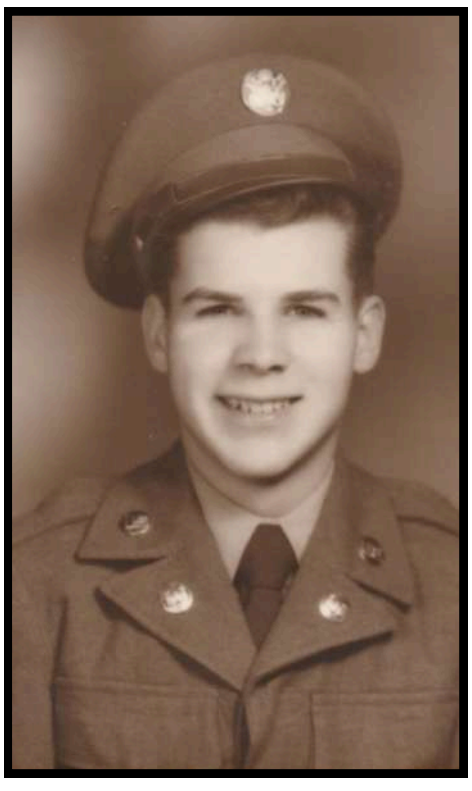
Corporal George T. Hill, Welcome Home. I salute you.







Photos taken by Andrea Summerlin South San Francisco, CA. July 15, 2026



Corporal George T. Hill, Age 17

UPCOMING EVENTS

2027
VOICE OF DEMOCRACY Banquet
MID-WINTER CONFERENCE
JANUARY 23, 2027
★BEND, OREGON★

VFW VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS. Oregon

RIVERHOUSE LODGE
3075 N. BUSINESS 97
BEND, OR 97703
541.389.3111

BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOM

Riverhouse Lodge
https://book.passkey.com/e/51289080

PURCHASE BANQUET TICKETS

Banquet Ticket: $50 per person if purchased by Dec 22nd

Registration Deadline: Thursday, January 7, 2027

All attendees are asked to register in advance to assist with conference planning and banquet meal arrangements.

Banquet reservations and meal selections must be submitted by the registration deadline.

AWARDS BANQUET DINNER MENU

- Sautéed Chicken Breast (Gluten-Free)
  - Sautéed chicken breast served with roasted tomato and mushroom Marsala sauce.
- Wild Mushroom Ravioli (Vegetarian)
  - Wild mushroom ravioli served with sherry tarragon cream sauce and Parmesan cheese.

All entrées include the chef's choice of salad, vegetable, and starch.

Dessert: Cheesecake

FRIDAY • JANUARY 22, 2027
PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

THE RANCH CENTRAL OREGON VETERANS RANCH

CENTRAL OREGON VETERANS RANCH TOUR
3:00 PM
65920 SW 61st St
Bend OR 97703
541.706.9062

MEET & GREET
5:30 PM
Location TBD

QUESTIONS?
Email ADJ@VFWOR.org or Admin@VFWOR.org

Save the Date

2027 VFW Washington Conference
Feb. 28 - March 4, 2027



CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOE STELLER 2026–2027 SHIRT



Commander Joe Steller selected purple as the signature color for this year's shirt, reflecting his personal style while celebrating the shared 2026–2027 theme with Department Auxiliary President Terri Steller:

"Together, Honoring the Past While Embracing the Future."

Whether you're attending Department meetings, conferences, community events, or representing the VFW in your local community, this polo is a great way to show your pride in the Department of Oregon and this year's leadership.

Each shirt features the embroidered Department Commander design on the front. You may also personalize your shirt with up to two lines of custom embroidery on the opposite chest, making it ideal for Post and District officers, Auxiliary members, and supporters.

Pricing

- $45 – Polo with the Department Commander embroidery only (no personalized embroidery)
- $50 – Polo with the Department Commander embroidery plus up to two lines of personalized embroidery.

Ordering Information

When placing your order, please provide:

- Shirt size
- Men's or Women's style
- Whether you would like personalized embroidery
  - *If selecting personalized embroidery, enter the exact wording for each line as you would like it embroidered.*

Not sure what size to order?
Please review the Blue Generation Size Chart before placing your order.

Processing Time

A limited number of non-personalized shirts may be available for immediate purchase while supplies last.
Personalized shirts are produced in group orders. Because the embroidery shop requires a minimum order of 12 shirts, personalized orders may take additional time to complete. We appreciate your patience while orders are accumulated and processed.

Pickup or Shipping
Choose the option that works best for you:

- Free pickup at a Department event
- USPS Mail (1 shirt) – $10.00

Shipping Note: One shirt (up to size 2XL) can be shipped in a USPS Small Flat Rate Box. If your order includes multiple shirts or requires different packaging, we will contact you before shipping if additional postage is required.

Scan the QR code or use the link below to visit the purchase page!

https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-27-state-commander-shirt



Questions?

If you have questions about sizing, embroidery, or your order, please contact Department Commander Joe Steller.

UPDATES

NEVER LEAVE ANYONE BEHIND - MISSION TO FULFILL THE NATION'S PROMISE

A PROMISE THAT DOESN'T END WHEN THE FIGHTING STOPS

The National Commander's 2026–2027 Special Project

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan stood at Arlington National Cemetery to honor an unidentified American serviceman from the Vietnam War. His remarks that day carried a message not only for the nation, but for the families still waiting for answers about their missing loved ones.

"We write no last chapters. We close no books. We put away no final memories."

More than four decades later, those words remain meaningful to the mission of locating, recovering and identifying America's missing service members.

DPAA Emblem
https://www.dpaa.mil/

THE MISSION CONTINUES

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) works to provide the fullest possible accounting for missing American service members and, whenever possible, bring them home to their families and their nation.

Its work is carried out around the world through historical research, investigations, recovery operations and forensic identification. Each case represents more than a name or a number. It represents a service member whose family may have spent decades waiting for answers.



Veterans escort the flag-draped casket of Corporal George T. Hill, whose remains were returned to Oregon through the efforts of DPAA. (See his story on page 9.)

A FIRSTHAND PERSPECTIVE

In March and April 2026, National Commander-in-Chief Cory Geisler traveled with DPAA personnel to Hawaii, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam to see their mission firsthand. During the trip, he witnessed recovery work at a site near Quang Binh Province, Vietnam.

The experience offered a closer look at the dedication and challenges involved in accounting for America's missing. It also reinforced the importance of continued public awareness, support and advocacy for the agency's work.

Now, through his 2026–2027 special project, "Never Leave Anyone Behind," Commander Geisler is asking VFW members to help carry that mission forward.

THE NATIONAL COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

For the 2026–2027 program year, Posts must make a minimum donation of $75 to the DPAA to meet this year's All-American Post requirement.

This contribution supports the National Commander's special project and helps bring attention to the ongoing effort to account for America's missing service members.

OREGON - THE CALL TO PARTICIPATE

The $75 contribution is a requirement for All-American recognition, but the reason behind the project reaches far beyond a certificate or an award.

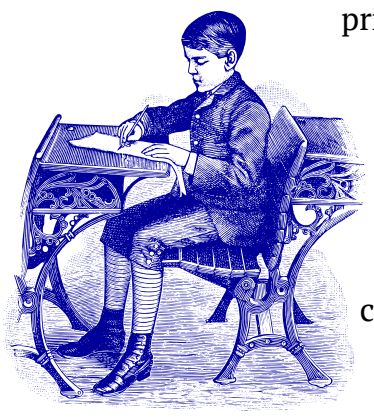
Every missing service member represents a family, a community and a promise that should not be forgotten. The work continues because answers still matter — whether a family has been waiting a few years or several generations.

We hope to see more stories like that of George Hill, featured in Andrea Summerlin's article on page 9. His story is a reminder of why this mission matters and what it means when a missing service member is finally brought home.

We made a promise. The work is not finished. And we must never leave anyone behind.

HOW TO PRINT OR ORDER A HARD COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER

To print one or more pages of this edition of Oregon VFW News, open the PDF in Adobe Acrobat and in the Print Dialogue box, specify which page(s) you want to print.

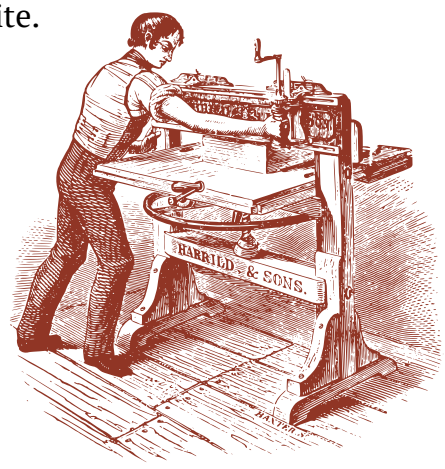


The default size is 11" x 17" paper.

To print on 8.5" x 11" paper, choose 'Shrink to printable area' or 'Scale to Fit'.

If you prefer to receive a hard copy of the Oregon VFW News printed on 11" x 17" paper, you can make a purchase through our website.

The cost is $15 per year for a black & white copy, or $20 per year for color.



Have a story to share?

Scan the QR code or visit:
VFWOR.ORG → Newsletter → Submit an Article

Share your Post's news, events, photos, and stories with the Department newsletter.



ALL AMERICAN*

District	Post	NVS Donation	DPAA Donatio	Buddy Poppy
2	1440			
2	2848			Met
2	2994			
2	4362	Met	Met	
2	10580	Met	Met	Met
3	1325	Met	Met	Met
3	4248			
4	965			
4	966			
4	2928			
4	3182			Met
4	3440			Met
4	4439			
4	6102			
5	1383			
5	4070			
6	3048			
6	4060			
6	4307			
6	5452			
6	7847			
7	1833			
7	2302			
7	6881			
7	9670			
8	922			
8	2471			
8	3597			
8	4567			
10	1412			
10	1643			
10	4108			
10	7242			
10	8138			
10	12141			
13	293			

District	Post	NVS Donation	DPAA Donation	Buddy Poppy
13	2468			Met
13	3232	Met	Met	
13	3473			
13	3965			
13	4039			
13	4166			
13	9448			Met
13	9745			
13	10639			Met
14	584			
14	661			
14	732			
14	3156			
14	3203			Met
14	3437			
14	3957	Met	Met	
14	4065			
14	4227	Met	Met	
14	5638			Met
14	12214			
15	180			
15	1324	Met	Met	Met
15	3973			
15	4273			Met
15	6057			Met
15	12140	Met	Met	Met
15	12211			
16	2666			Met
16	3452			Met
16	4015			
16	4211			



**As of October 21, 2026.*

DISTRICT MEETINGS

2026-2027 Winter Meeting Schedule

DIST	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	Dept Rep	REMARKS
2	Jan 30, 2026	10:00 AM	Clatskanie 2994	Sr. Vice CDR	In Person/Zoom
			960 NW 5th St		No Potluck
			Clatskanie, OR 97016		
3	Jan 16, 2026	10:00 AM	Shellwood-Breakthrough 4248	Sr. Vice CDR	
			3281 SE Rivere Dr		No Potluck
			Milwaukie, OR 97267		
4	Jan 30, 2026	1:00 PM	Frank C. High Medal of Honor 3440	Judge Advocate	
			55352 Bates Rd		Potluck
			Bandon, OR 97411		12:00 PM
5	Jan 16, 2026	1:00 PM	Layne Clifton 4070	Judge Advocate	
			1160 N 4th St		Potluck
			Lakeview, OR 97630		12:00 PM
6	Jan 16, 2026	3:00 PM		Surgeon	
			Zoom Meeting		No Potluck
7	Dec 19, 2026	11:00 AM	Crater Lake 1833	Judge Advocate	
			241 E Barnett Rd, Suite B		Potluck
			Medford, OR 97501		12:00 PM
8	Dec 12, 2026	11:00 AM	Let'Er Buck 922	Surgeon	In Person/Zoom
			1221 SE Court Pl		No Potluck
			Pendleton, OR 97801		
10	Jan 9, 2026	1:00 PM	Post 1643	Judge Advocate	
			1503 NE 4th AVE St		Potluck
			Bend, OR 97701		12:00 PM
13	Jan 9, 2026	10:00 AM	Eugene 293	Jr. Vice CDR	
			Veterans Memorial Bldg. 1626 Willamette St		Potluck
			Eugene, OR 97401		12:00 PM
14	Jan 17, 2026	2:00 PM	Monroe 3957	Jr. Vice CDR	
			605 Main St		Potluck
			Monroe, OR 97456		1:00 PM
15	Jan 16, 2026	1:00 PM	Sandy 2473	Jr. Vice CDR	In Person/Zoom
			38975 Proctor Blvd.		No Potluck
			Sandy, OR 97055		
16	Jan 16, 2026	1:00 PM	Major Axel Rasmussen 3452	Sr. Vice CDR	
			18820 SW Boones Ferry Rd		Potluck
			Tualatin, OR		11:30 AM

MEMBERSHIP

Recruiters*

*As of October 23, 2026.

Every Member Makes a Difference!

Our recruiters are helping grow the VFW one conversation at a time. Thank you to everyone reaching out, sharing the VFW story, and welcoming new members into our organization!

District	Post #	Recruiter	Members
2	2848	Dean J. Massender	2
2	2848	Donavan J. Goff	2
2	2848	Nicholas A. Torres	1
2	4362	David P. Sleightam	3
2	10580	Claude Miller	2
4	966	Charles R. Smith	1
5	1383	Duane G. Whitehead	1
7	9670	William G. Travis Jr.	1
8	922	James L. Humphrey Sr.	2
8	922	James L. Humphrey Sr.	2
10	1643	Robert W. Cusick	1
10	4108	Aundrea Pea Leese	2
10	4108	Jason E. Brock	1
10	12141	Duane S. Ledford	1
13	293	Jeffery W. Crane	1
13	3232	Gary W. Covert	3
13	3965	James E. Matthews	1
13	9448	Kathy A. Lundeen	1
13	10639	Christopher A. Rouse	2
14	584	Nicole White	2
14	584	Robert W. Gore	1
14	661	David Cain	10
14	661	Eric A. Rutherford	1
14	3437	Ryan P. Matteson	1
14	3957	Donald H. Strine	1
14	3957	Leeland J. Manghelli	1
14	3957	William W. Woodke	1
14	4227	Andrea D. Summerlin	1
14	4227	James H. Buisman	1
14	4227	Michael R. Petersen	1
14	5638	David L. Welch	1
15	180	Michael L. Martin	1
15	1324	Bryan K. Smith	3
15	1324	Damon L. Mabee	1
15	1324	Franklin R. West	2
15	1324	Waymon A. Bonner	1
15	3973	Rodney W. Wymore	2
15	4273	Allen P. Anderson	1
15	12140	Anthony L. Barber	5
15	12140	Kenneth L. Kraft	2
16	2666	Joseph Mathis	1
16	3452	Paul A. Maidel Jr.	3
16	4211	William E. Karger	1

THE MEMBERSHIP RACE IS ON!

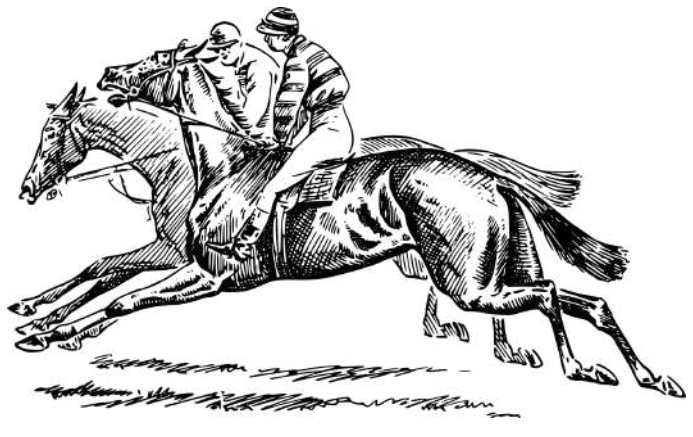
*As of October 21, 2026.

FY 2026–27

Monroe Post 3957 is in the lead!

Followed by Waldport Post 3156, then Stayton Post 5638

Post	Dst	%	City	State
3957	14	108.10%	MONROE	OR
3156	14	104.16%	WALDPORT	OR
5638	14	101.42%	STAYTON	OR
3452	16	100.37%	TUALATIN	OR
4211	16	100.00%	WILLAMINA	OR
12211	15	100.00%	HOOD RIVER	OR



LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Honoring our Legacy Life members* **As of October 23, 2026.*

Legacy Life membership gives VFW Life members an opportunity to leave a lasting impression on our great organization and help support veterans for generations to come.

Three prestigious levels of Legacy Life membership are available: Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Each level offers exclusive benefits, while an annual endowment in the member's name is made to their Post, Department, and the national organization.

Legacy Life members can take pride in knowing their contributions help support today's veterans and the veterans of tomorrow. Members may also purchase a Memorial Legacy in honor of a deceased VFW Annual or Life member, helping future generations remember their service and contributions.

Below are the newest members to join the Legacy, along with Legacy Life members who have been called to their final Post.

Post	Name	Level
1383	Daniel B Williams	Bronze
4060	Darrel E Plank	Bronze
180	David Kirkpatrick	Bronze
1833	Hugh E Crawford	Bronze
1833	Jonathan P Lucky	Silver
3473	Monroe W Parrish	Bronze
966	Nelson J. Sprague	Bronze
293	Nicholas J Urhausen	Bronze
3203	Dennis R Pratt *	Silver
15038	Donald C Sopher *	Bronze
12140	Donald L Reed *	Gold
5452	Donald M Ristow *	Gold
4015	Donald R Cooke *	Bronz
2666	Ellsworth H Bell *	Gold
10580	Eugene Bonk *	Bronz
12141	Floyd W Leach *	Gold
12141	Fred E Beebee *	Bronz
3232	Frederick T Kolbeck *	Gold
4108	Gary D Pitman *	Silver
5452	Gary M Good *	Bronz
10580	George I Gunn *	Bronz
6881	Gerald A Zieman *	Bronz
1324	Gerry B Mcateer *	Silver
4248	Gregory L Drais *	Gold
3232	Harley O Youngblood	Bronz
4108	Harold G Davidson *	Gold
3452	Harvey A Pitcher *	Gold
661	Herman A Mac Donald *	Bronze
1833	Hugh E Crawford *	Bronze
922	James F Hand *	Gold
1325	James H Mc Gee Jr. *	Gold
293	James I Bell *	Bronze
15038	James M Poling *	Silver
2848	James W Allenbrand *	Gold
3232	James W Gerth *	Bronze
3973	Jason Carroll *	Gold
4362	Jerry Peal *	Bronze
3965	Jess M Wise Jr. *	Gold
1324	John A Baranek *	Gold
4039	John R Clark *	Bronze
4108	John R Wrinkle *	Gold
1833	Jonathan P Lucky *	Silver
1324	Justus P. Mills *	Silver
3452	Lawrence J Howard *	Bronze
4015	Leonard Schorzmann *	Bronze
4015	Leonard D. Braithwait Jr. *	Bronze
4015	Lester E Beecroft *	Bronze
15038	Louis J Neubecker *	Gold
180	Maynard C Smith *	Bronze
10580	Melvin H Jasmin *	Bronze
4039	Melvin L Northcutt *	Bronze
3232	Merritt C Mosby *	Bronze
4039	Michael G Coltharp *	Bronze
1643	Michael P Boehme *	Gold
3232	Milton G Gravell *	Bronze
3473	Monroe W Parrish *	Bronze
966	Nelson J. Sprague *	Bronze
10580	Norman A Doney *	Bronze
1833	Oscar C Willis *	Bronze
1324	Phillip M Jarvis *	Gold
1324	Randall E Savage *	Bronze
1324	Rex L Ruck *	Gold
1324	Richard G Lightfoot *	Bronze
1324	Rick L Higgins *	Gold
1324	Robert A Dougherty *	Bronze
1324	Robert B Woerner *	Silver
1324	Robert D Walsh *	Bronze
1324	Robert F Osterlund *	Bronze
1324	Robert J Jackson *	Bronze
1324	Robert L Anderson *	Bronze
1324	Robert W Black *	Bronze
1324	Roble Anderson *	Bronze
1324	Ronald W Jagodnik *	Gold
1324	Roscoe V Dorsett *	Bronze
1324	Russell E Downs *	Bronze
1324	Seth J Forquer *	Bronze
1324	Shannon M Kelly *	Bronze
1324	Steven M Boosinger *	Gold
1324	Terry E Boyer *	Silver
1324	Thomas A Lazette *	Bronze
1324	Thomas G Laing *	Gold
1324	Thomas R Mc Neal *	Bronze
1324	Timothy K Marler *	Bronze
1324	Vincent R Le Piane *	Bronze
1324	Wallace L Fulbright *	Bronze
1324	William M Trumble *	Bronze



**Indicates Legacy Life members who have passed on.

TAPS-IN MEMORIAM

THIS PAGE HONORS OUR AMERICAN MILITARY VETERANS WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US. WHILE HISTORY MAY OVERLOOK MANY OF THE BRAVE DEEDS OF OUR GALLANT SERVICEMEN AND SERVICEWOMEN, THEIR MEMORY WILL FOREVER LIVE IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLE OF THE GREAT NATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

READ EACH NAME WITH PRIDE AND GRATITUDE, FOR THEY ANSWERED THE CALL TO DUTY, AND NOW THE HONOR AND GLORY ARE THEIRS. THEY GAVE THEIR ALL FOR US, AND THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.

TAPS ARE SOUNDING.

Post	Name	Date
180	John M Geren	10/6/2026
180	Mark Ryan	10/13/2026
180	Francis R Weatherly	8/1/2026
293	Richard W Everts	10/5/2026
293	John R Hackbarth	7/19/2026
584	Norman D Oleman	8/18/2026
661	William L Hubble	7/14/2026
661	Clinton Williams	8/4/2026
922	Robert W Linnebur	8/7/2026
922	Edward L Mc Callum	8/7/2026
922	Andrew Stapleton	8/7/2026
1324	Hoyt P Brezeale	10/6/2026
1325	Ronald L May	9/22/2026
1383	Irvin M Burris	8/7/2026
1383	Raymond L Holmes	8/7/2026
1383	Charles Maloney	8/7/2026
1383	Charles E Norton	9/29/2026
1383	James R Pope	8/7/2026
1383	Maximilian Rozum	8/7/2026
1383	Sheridan L Scott	7/16/2026
1383	Gail V Webb	8/7/2026
1412	Clarence E Smith	8/7/2026
1440	Preston O Thomas	8/7/2026
1643	Bob L Busenbark	8/7/2026
1643	Julius L Cordoni	8/17/2026
1643	George T Cutting	7/16/2026
1643	Robert E Kerns	8/7/2026
1643	John W Sales	7/16/2026
1643	Calvin N Stidham	8/7/2026
1833	Norman N Goldberg	8/7/2026
1833	Robert L Moberly	9/8/2026
1833	Richard N Ryberg	8/31/2026
1833	Ted Wharton	8/7/2026
2302	George A Eder	7/16/2026
2302	Otto C Gaither	7/21/2026
2666	Richard M Hodge	9/10/2026
2666	John D Stevens	10/20/2026
2928	Tom Huff	10/13/2026
2994	James W Owen	10/20/2026
3156	Francis E Sievers	8/7/2026
3182	Evor Thomas	8/7/2026
3232	Daniel S Hackett	10/6/2026
3232	Eugene R Henderson	10/6/2026
3232	Chester L Robertson	8/7/2026
3440	Harold J Larsson	8/7/2026
3452	Gary D Spelce	8/18/2026
3473	Patrick R Smith	8/18/2026
3597	Kenneth L Kindig	7/7/2026
3965	Gregory E Lopez	10/6/2026
3965	Roger W Piper	9/10/2026
3965	Dale M Rickert	8/31/2026
3973	Curt P Christiansen	8/4/2026
3973	Warren N Prideaux	10/7/2026
3973	Johnny L Selvaggi	7/21/2026
4015	Gary A Brandt	10/5/2026
4015	Paul E Clayton	8/7/2026
4015	Stanley F Destwolinski	10/6/2026
4015	Robert H Mitchell	8/7/2026
4039	Michael M Renken	10/5/2026
4060	Michael E Evans	9/15/2026
4060	Willard Rudd	9/15/2026
4070	Ross C Cox	8/7/2026
4108	Leroy J Bjork	9/8/2026
4108	Terry L Fournier	10/20/2026
4108	John W Sinclair	8/4/2026
4211	George T Howell	8/7/2026
4211	Richard E Newberg	9/8/2026
4227	Norman R Barnes	10/20/2026
4248	Richard A Gerold	9/22/2026
4248	Fred A H Green	9/29/2026
4248	Harley E Richardson	10/20/2026
4273	Robert F Hickman	8/17/2026
4307	John C Joyce	7/14/2026
4362	Bradford O Fine	10/20/2026
4439	Robert H Berry	9/15/2026
4567	Bruce K Lee	8/4/2026
5452	Warren Edwards	8/7/2026
6057	Edward W Schultz	8/7/2026
9745	Ernest B Farley	9/8/2026
10580	Melvin H Jasmin	7/24/2026
10580	Raymond A Mcewen	9/22/2026
10580	William C Rice	8/25/2026
12141	Neil E Mc Donald	10/20/2026
MAL	David F Bucher	10/6/2026
MAL	Billy J Carpenter	10/6/2026
MAL	William V De Bellis	8/7/2026
MAL	Dean D Dow	8/31/2026
MAL	Fred D Forrest	10/6/2026
MAL	Charles D Fuller	8/31/2026
MAL	Kenneth L Joy	7/7/2026
MAL	Ernest F Luoma	8/7/2026
MAL	Lawrence R Miller	7/6/2026
MAL	Victor Nunenkamp	7/16/2026
MAL	Lawrence Petroski	9/22/2026
MAL	Robert F Remillard	8/7/2026
MAL	Todd A Vangen	8/18/2026

